



Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools

Guiding Principles

Statements of Fact: Every Kansas educational setting is vulnerable to threats and crisis events. Kansas schools are not uniformly prepared, resource equipped nor trained to respond to emergency school events.

1. Regardless of current challenges (financial, policy, political or otherwise), schools have a duty to provide a safe and prepared learning environment for our students, staff and patrons. The question is not if, but when, a school crisis event occurs, how prepared are we?
2. During these challenging economic times, seek ways to bring awareness and improvement of school safety and school preparedness so they have minimal or no money costs to local schools.
3. Clearly state standards and expectations schools should implement for safety and preparedness in their schools.
4. Promote best practices - minimize mandates.
5. Advocate and be the voice for children during times of crisis.
6. Focus on the connection between academic success and a safe and prepared school learning environment.
7. All school crisis events are local and school officials on site should have initial first responders training.
8. School crisis events are community events and community crisis events are school events. School leadership, emergency management and first responders should work together in advance of and continually for crisis events that impact their schools and communities.
9. Training is continuous due to changing expectations and staff turnover. The all-hazards approach is the consistent theme for training & preparedness.
10. Advocacy for school safety and preparedness must be constant while public interest in the topic tends to be more cyclic.